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WILSON FAMILY HISTORY.

BY EDWARD WILSON.

Bloomington, Illinois,

1918.

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THOMAS WILSON AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

By Edward Wilson, Aged 90 Years.

Being the last one of my generation now living, I will attempt to record a brief History of the Wilson Family as I know it from a long lifes memory and personal relation.

To commence at the beginning, we must take the reader back to the primitive days of 1720, when England was being constantly aroused by the war cry and the rattle of fire arms.

About six years had elapsed since the death of Queen Anne, and the dull yet jealous German, George the First, on the throne, the uprising of the Jacobites in the north was quelled, and James Stuart had gone back to Italy de--feated.

It was during these exciting times that THOMAS WILSON was born near the town of Bedlington, in North--umberland County, England, where he remained and did his lifes work.

When he came to years of manhood, he married and settled near Bedlington. I have a photograph of the church he and his family attended, and of the churchyard where their dead are buried.

About the year 1750 there was born to Thomas Wil--son, a son. This son was about ten years of age when George the Third ascended the throne, and had reached his maturity when the War of the Revolution began in America.

About this time, this son who was the oldest of the family, came to America. It is supposed that he landed at Norfolk, Va. and although I have no positive proof, yet I claim that our thrice honored President, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, is a descendant of that son in the fourth generation.

My Grandfather, also named Thomas Wilson, in honor of his Father, was the youngest of the family. When he arrived at maturity, he also packed his belongings and started for America. He got as far as the port from which he was to sail, when from some cause, supposed to have been affection for his parents, he changed his mind and returned to Bedlington, where he soon afterwards married and remained as long as long as his parents lived.

In 1801, after the death of his parents, he sold their possessions, and with his wife and five children, sailed for America. After a long voyage they landed at New York, went thence up the Hudson River to Albany, where they disembarked and re-embarking on a flat-boat propelled by set poles, on the Mohawk River, to Beggs' Tavern, now the city of Utica, thence by ox team some thirty miles, to Madison County, where he bought a tract of land of Peter Smith.

There was enough of this land to make three good farms. There he spent his remaining days, and is buried in the Col. Ballou Cemetery, one mile north of Fenner Corners.

The region where they settled was in the elevated portion of central New York, overlooking the beautiful vil--lage of Cazenovia. It was told as the truth that there was a barn in the east part of the town of Fenner, the water from the ~~north~~ South side of the roof of which ran south into the Ohio River, thence on to the Gulf of Mexico, while that from the north side ran north into the St. Lawrence River, thence to the Atlantic.

My Grandfather Wilson was of commanding appear--ance, weighing much over two hundred pounds. His wife and five children were Thomas, Jr. Robert, Elizabeth, Ed--ward, and William. Grandmother Wilson was, as I re--member, a tall, genteel English woman, who lived to be long past eighty. Uncle Thomas was a building contractor, and built some of the finest houses in Cazenovia. He mar--ried Mary Evens. Their family consisted of George, who settled at Baldwinsville, north of Syracuse; Thomas, Jr., who never married, and Mary, a fine specimen of young English woman, who married George Crossman of Rochester, N. Y. Their children were Mrs. Shepherd, George and Chas.

John Wilson bought my fathers farm in the spring of 1844, and soon afterwards married Jane Hyatt, daughter of Charles S. Hyatt, and an estimable young woman of that vicinity. They had no children, but he as Superintendant of the Sunday School, used frequently to entertain the children of the neighborhood, and at one such gathering at his home on a Fourth of July, fire from the fire works caught in the roof of his house and it burned down. He afterwards built a finer house where he and his wife spent their last days.

Mrs. Wilson died in 1881, after which their farm was taken by Newell Hyatt, a nephew of Mrs. Wilson.

John Wilson died Feb. 25, 1905. He and his wife are buried at Cazenovia, N. Y. Their deaths were mourned as a great loss to the church of Fenner and the community at large.

I can say but little of my Uncle Robert, as I do not remember of ever seeing him. I think he settled at Rome, N. Y. north of Utica, and he may have lived a sort of her-mit life, as I think he never married.

My Aunt Elizabeth, better known as Aunt Bee, born in 1787, was a most remarkable woman. She was married to John Bee, who came also from Northumberland County, Eng-land, and who traced his ancestry back to the year 1575.

They had a family of seven children as follows; viz. Cornelia, who married Josiah Jobes; Barlow, and Richard, who went to California at an early day, where I met his family; Mary, who married George Haver, at Clinton. They afterwards moved to Rochester, N. Y. where their family now live; John Bee, who I remember as a fine young man, died when about twenty years old; Albert W. Bee, who was connected with a mercantile house in New York City, in 1849, when gold was first discovered in California. The firm with which he was connected fitted out a vessel with goods and supplies, and sent him in charge of it around Cape Horn to San Francisco, where he arrived in due time.

He established a store at Placerville, better known in that day as Hangtown, where I think he spent the remain-der of his life. He left a widow and a son, Everett Bee, whom I met in San Francisco in 1892, - a fine young man who went to Chile in 1895. We did not hear of him for many years, when three years ago he was reported in New York City as an extensive coffee planter from South America.

Frederic Augustus Bee, the youngest of this family, was educated at Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y. He stud--ied law, was admitted to the bar in 1849, and on the dis--covery of gold in California, with a light purse but large ideals, he determined to go. He got money enough together to get his life insured, sold the policy for enough money to buy a ticket on a sailing vessel around the Horn and in due time he landed in Francisco where he "made good".

He was a promoter and helper of the first telegraph line over the mountains to the states, and later he was a promoter, stock holder, and director of the railroad from Seattle down the coast to San Francisco and beyond.

He also held the office of Provost Marshall on the coast during the years 1860—1865.

He was employed by the Emperor of China to repre--sent the Chinese on the coast in some treaty affair with our government at Washington. He did this so well that the Emperor appointed him Chinese Consul, an office he held the rest of his life. He died in 1892, and is buried in Gol--den Gate Cemetery at San Francisco.

My Uncle Edward Wilson, first, the fourth of this family, was born in 1786. He came to the woods of Central New York with the rest of the family, and began clear--ing land where he made a home. He married Betsey Hatch. They had no children. He made good improvements, had a fine farm, was held in esteem by all who made his ac--quaintance, and many men less favored could thank him for favors bestowed. He lived on the same farm as long as he lived, and he served the public in many ways.

In politics he was a staunch Jackson Democrat, be--lieved in free trade, specie payment, and sailors rights.

I well remember of his coming to our house in my boyhood days and staying many nights until ten or eleven o'clock, in an argument with my mother, who believed in a United States bank and a protective tariff. Father would lie down on the floor and go to sleep, which was best for him. Uncle Edward always left cheerfully, however, to come back again and renew the argument. It was there I learned my first lessons in politics.

My Father, William Wilson, was born in 1789, came to America and to the woods of Central New York in 1801, where he found his playmates, who were the Indian boys of the neighborhood. As soon as he was old enough he be--gan clearing land and made a farm.

He was married to Lydia Main, my mother, in 1816. She was born at Windom, Connecticut, in 1799, a daughter of Thomas and Lucy Tyler Main. My Grandmother Main whom I remember well, claimed to be a cousin of John Ty--ler, who was elected Vice-President in 1840, on the ticket with William Henry Harrison, and served as President af--ter Harrison's death.

My Grandfather, Thomas Main, like Thomas Wilson, was a large portly man, and weighed over two hundred pounds.

My Grandfathers were both named Thomas, and both died the same year, leaving their widows, who survived them a number of years.

I remember the day my Grandmother Main died. I had been fishing, caught a fine string of speckled trout, and came home to find Grandmother was dead.

My Father built substantial buildings, including the house burned by John Wilson's Fourth of July celebration, where they lived until 1844, raising a large family, all of whom lived to years of maturity, and all of them at a pro--per age were members of a regular Baptist Church.

My oldest sister, Mary, married W. H. Holmes, a young lawyer, in 1835, and made a trip in a one horse wag--on from central New York to Pekin, Ill. where they lived many years, later moving to Bloomington, Ill.

Mr. Holmes represented Tazewell County in the con--stitutional convention that met in Springfield, Ill. in 1847.

They raised a family of ten children, all of whom lived to be grown, viz. Julia, who married B. Gray, Henry an athlete, Albert, a Civil War veteran, William, also a War veteran, Mary, who married A. F. Risser, another Civil War veteran, - They are the parents of Mrs. Frank H. Funk and A. F. Risser, Jr. a ranchman of Colorado. - Clara Good--fellow, an Indian teacher in the employ of the U. S. Gov--ernment at Lodge Pole, Montana, Charles, a fruit man of Benton Harbor, Michigan, Nellie, who married John Flinn a veteran engineer on the C. & A. and later on the C. M. & St. Paul R. R.;

Frank, a trusted engineer on the C. & A. R. R. who was shot and killed by train robbers at Carlinville, Ill. has two sons in the U. S. Navy, and Jesse Watkins, the young--est, lives in Aurora, Ill.

My second sister, Ardelia C., came to Illinois in the fall of 1842, and in February, 1845, was married to Samuel Lander, of near Bloomington. He was a representative far--mer and miller, operated a large farm and built three mills, one a flour mill, is supposed to have been one of the first in McLean County.

Samuel Lander represented McLean County in the con--stitutional convention at Springfield, Ill. in 1847. This was composed of a representative class of men who formed a constitution which when adopted redeemed the State of Ill--inois from the stigma of repudiation and bankruptcy.

He spent a long and active life, living to be ninety years old. His wife lived a number of years longer. They are buried in the City Cemetery, at Bloomington, Illinois. They left two children, Clara Coill, of Colorado, and Wal--ter S. of this City. By a former marriage Mr. Lander had four children, John D., Charles W., Richard M. and Zer--elda Doyle, later York, all now deceased.

My third sister, Lucy A., was teaching school at the time our family came west, remained in the east, and was married to Hiram G. Hart, a reputable farmer of near Clin--ton, N. Y. in 1845. She made one trip to the west by way of the lakes and back east by way of the Wabash canal. It was a hard trip and so disgusted her with the western coun--try that she remained in the east the rest of her life.

Their family consisted of the following children, viz. William W. born 1846, died 1863, Edward M. born 1848, died 1874, Walter C. born 1853, married Stella Cobern of Kirksville, Mo. Carrie F. born 1856, married H. H. Guth--ridge, 1889. (Their children are Elsie L. born 1890, mar--ried W. A. Loomis, 1908, and Dudley H. born 1891.) Tho--mas H. born 1858, died young, Henry Chapin, born 1863, married Emma Matthews, and died 1900.

Mrs. Carrie H. Guthridge has been a valued attache of the Tiffany Jewelry Store in New York City for many years. She lives at 180 Prospect Park, Brooklyn, N. Y. and is the only survivor of the family of H. G. and Lucy C. Hart. She has two children, viz. Elsie, born 1890, married W. A. Loomis, 1908, and Dudley H. born 1891.

My fourth sister, Lydia L., born in 1822, married Charles W. Godard in 1842. He was a wide awake young man of that region, and was in the dry goods business with Daniel Crouse of Canestotia, N. Y. He was later concerned in running a line of boats from Albany to Buffalo on the Erie Canal.

They later moved to Brooklyn, N. Y. where he was appointed collector of the Port of New York, and later was a delegate to the National Republican Convention that met in Chicago in June, 1860, and nominated Abraham Lincoln for President, and was a loyal supporter of his administration.

Together with Mrs. Shanahan of New York, Mrs. Godard was at the head of the Red Cross work in New York and Brooklyn during the '60's.

Mr. and Mrs. Godard both died in middle life. Their children are Nellie, who married Major Powell, Lillie, who married B. K. Reitz, and Josephine, who married Charles Crossman.

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Charles W. Godard was born at Granby, Conn. July 23, 1817. Lydia L. Wilson, his wife, was born at Fenner, N. Y. June 21, 1822. They were married March 17, 1841. Their children were Helen F. born Feb. 20, 1842, Clara E. born at Albany, N. Y. Dec. 18, 1847, Lillie A. born at Al-bany, N. Y. about 1850, and L. Josephine, born also at Albany, N. Y. Dec. 19, 1853.

Helen F. Godard married William Powell, March 17, 1858, and died at Brooklyn, N. Y. Sept. 7, 1882. Their children all born at Brooklyn, N. Y. were Lillie G., Harry, Amelia G., and William J. Lillie G. Powell married Frank Arnzen, and died at Richmond, Va. leaving a son, Herbert Arnzen, born at Brooklyn, N. Y. surviving. Harry Powell died at Brooklyn, N. Y. Amelia G. Powell married Walter Cornwell, and has a daughter, Lillian G. Cornwell, born at Port Washington, Long Island. William J. Powell married Sadie _____ .

Clara E. Godard died at Albany ,N. Y. April 4, 1850. Lillie A. Godard married Baltzer K. Reitz at Brooklyn, N. Y. Oct. 20, 1875. Their son, Charles G. Reitz, was born at Chicago, Ill. Aug. 31, 1880, married Maud Nell at Roches-ter, N. Y. April 26, 1905, and has a daughter, Margaret Reitz, born March 31, 1907.

L. Josephine Godard married Charles Crossman at Chicago, Ill. Feb. 6, 1884. Their children were Lillie L. Crossman, who was born at Rochester, N. Y. April 11, 1885, married Herbert Fowler at Rochester, N. Y. Nov. 9, 1912, and has a son, Richard C. Fowler, born Oct. 15, 1915, and H. Josephine Crossman, who was born also at Rochester, N. Y. May 10, 1887, married Howard Van De Mark at Rochester, N. Y. Sept. 19, 1914, and has a daughter, Helen Van De Mark, born Dec. 21, 1915.

Lydia L. (Wilson) Godard died at Brooklyn, N. Y. Dec. 31, 1881. Charles W. Godard, her husband, died also at Brooklyn, N. Y. Feb. 19, 1883.

My older brother, Walter Chester Wilson, was born in 1824, and as I remember him, he grew up to be a stout young man, but very fond of his books, and acquired an education so young that he taught his first school the winter before he was seventeen years old, and established his reputation as a good teacher and a successful disciplin-
-arian at the same time. He settled a boisterous element that had disturbed the school he first taught for several terms previously.

He came west with the family, and continued teach--ing as long as he was able. There are a number of our older citizens who remember him as their early teacher.

He did well while he was able, but close confinement ruined his health. He went east to a medical institution in the spring of 1853, but failing to improve, he died at Clin--ton, N. Y. Oct. 11, 1853, and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, in this City.

[The following account of A. Judson Wilson, son of William and Lydia Main Wilson, was furnished by his son, Frank L. Wilson, of Bloomington, Ill.]

A. Judson Wilson was born at Fenner Corners, N. Y. 1829, married Ellen E. Cornell at Centralia, Ill. 1860, and died in Bloomington, Ill. 1900. When his parents came west in 1844, he was left with his uncle Edward in New York State. In 1850, being then twenty-one years old, he came to McLean County, Ill. and taught school for two years in Dale and Randolph Townships, after which he clerked in Robinson & Betts general store and in Benjamin Schermer--horn's dry goods store, in Bloomington.

In 1857 he bought a small interest in Schermerhorns branch store in Springfield, Ill. and worked there [number--ing Abraham Lincoln among his customers,] until 1862, when he bought the south half of his fathers farm. This tract contained eighty acres, and cost him $1820.00. He borrowed all the money, then went to work to pay the debt.

He built a house and outbuildings on this land, and made a specialty of raising osage hedge until about 1878, when hedge lost its popularity and he engaged in general farming.

He was a school director for twenty-four years, town--ship supervisor for six years, and town clerk for two years. He retired to Bloomington in 1899 and died the following year.

His wife is the daughter of Serril Cornell and Eliza Hopkins, and is descended from the old Cornell, Hopkins. Carver, and Field families of Rhode Island. She was born at Gloucester, R. I. 1839, moved to Bloomington in 1857, and to Centralia in 1859, where her parents lived until they died.

The children of A. Judson and Ellen E. (Cornell) Wilson are

Nellie Frances, b. 1861, m. John Cobbs, a monument manufacturer, and lives at Horton, Kans. Children, (1) Gertrude, b. 1885, m. Oliver Wampler, and has one child, Nelson. (2) Mabel, b. 1886, m. Frank Rayfield, and (3) Margaret, b. 1899.

Charles William, b. 1865, m. 1st, Helen Henderson, 2nd, Louise Proctor.

Edward Main, b. 1866, m. 1st, Lettie Rutledge, 2nd, Mary Lawrence, and d. 1903.

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Elizabeth Bee, b. 1868, m. Geo. A. Poore, Division Supt. Boston & Maine R. R. Lives at Providence, R. I. Daughter, Winifred, b. 1895, m. Frederick Wagner.

Abbie Cornell, b. 1870, m. Dr. D. R. Phillips, Lives in Chicago, Ill. Children, Ellen E. b. 1896, Marion, b. 1899.

Mary Josephine, b. 1872. Lives with her mother in Bloomington, Ill.

Robert Henry, b. 1875, m. Florence Weed.

Frank Lester, b. 1877. Unmarried.

Harry Keith, b. 1882. Unmarried.

Charles William Wilson, b. Bloomington, Ill. 1865, m. 1st, Helen Henderson, 1892, 2nd, Louise Proctor, 18.. He attended the Illinois Wesleyan University and the Valpar--aiso Normal School, and went to work for his uncle Henry in a bank at Pratt, Kans. and later worked at Wichita, Mc Pherson, and Kingman.

In 1893 he bought one thousand acres of wild land at Laredo, Texas, and with the aid of his brother Robert, attempted to improve and irrigate it, but hard times and cold winters interfered and in the fall of 1896 the two bro--thers hitched their horses to a covered wagon and drove all the way to Bloomington, coming through Arkansas.

Charles then worked as an accountant in Chicago and and was credit man for Reid, Murdock & Co. in 1899, when his health gave out and he and his brother Robert went west and roamed the mountains of Colorado for a year.

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We next find him in Mexico City, and then employed as a bridge carpenter with a railroad construction gang for Kilpatrick Bros. The boss noticed him one day, offered him an office job, and on his refusal sent him to Picabo, Idaho, in charge of a large sheep ranch at $100. per month and expenses.

After several years he had saved enough to buy an interest in a banking and mercantile firm being organized at Bellevue, Idaho. He now has control of their entire business, is cashier of the bank, and has added a cattle ranch to their extensive interests.

Helen (Henderson) Wilson died in Chicago, Ill. 1894. He afterwards married Louise Proctor at Bellevue, Idaho.

He has one child, Helen Pauline, b. 1893, m. Harry Maynard.

Edward Main Wilson, b. Bloomington, Ill. 1866, m. 1st, Lettie Rutledge, daughter of Owen C. Rutledge, in 1894, and 2nd, Mary Lawrence, 1897. Lettie Rutledge was born 1871, and died 1895.

He attended the Normal School at Normal, Ill. taught a country school two years, then became assistant editor of the Pantagraph. In 1896 he obtained a position on the Chi--cago Record, which he held five years. In 1901 he went to Denver, Col. on account of his wifes health and secured a position as editor of the Denver Republican, but his health gave way and he died of consumption in 1903. His wife fol--lowed him within a few months.

Edward M. Wilson was a writer of ability. He kept a diary of neighborhood events beginning in 1882 and con--tinuing until his death. This contains many poems, sketches of local history, stories and notes, illustrated with many pencil and pen drawings of superior excellence. It is bound in several volumes. His ability was fast becoming recog--nized and many of his poems and other writings have been published by newspapers and periodicals, some of these writ--ings being illustrated by his own hand.

His children are Lyndon Rutledge Wilson, born 1895, lives in Champaign, Ill. and Edward Lawrence Wilson, born 1899, lives at Oak Park, Ill.

Robert Henry Wilson, born 1875, married Florence Weed in Denver, Col. in 1907. In 1895 he went to Laredo, Texas, to help his brother Charles in his irrigation scheme. The next year they drove from Laredo to Bloomington and Robert managed the home farm two years. He then went to Chicago and secured a postion as a grocery clerk from which he rose to traveling salesman for Reid, Murdock & Co. In 1901 he went to Denver to nurse his brother Edward and after the latters death, he worked as city salesman for the Brown Mercantile Co. which position he now holds.

His wife is a descendant of Thurlow Weed, the fam--ous newspaper man of New York.

Their home is at 2255 Dexter Street, Denver, Col. Their children are Robert Thurlow Wilson, born 1908, Mar--garet P. born 1911, and Lou Ellen, born 1914.

Frank Lester Wilson, born in Bloomington, Ill. 1877, attended the Normal School at Normal, Ill. and graduated in 1900, having taught a country school to pay his expenses. He followed the profession of pedagogue for six years as follows, Assistant principal at Carrollton, principal at Ipava, and teacher of mathematics at Bloomington.

In 1906 he engaged in the laundry business, but soon sold out and worked for other firms in Hammond, Ind. and Kalamazoo, Mich. He returned to Bloomington, Ill. in 1911, and became a master painter, having learned the trade in spare time. He now resides with his mother and assists her in managing the estate.

Harry Keith Wilson, born in Bloomington, Ill. 1882, graduated from Bloomington High School in 1902 and from Cornell University in 1906. He paid most of his expenses at college by serving as a waiter and laundry agent. Upon leaving college he took a position with the D. L. & W. R. R. as civil engineer, and remained with them until 1917.

In 1916 he took the Plattsburg training camp course and after war with Germany was declared, he secured a commission as First Lieutenant. He is now with the Res--erve Officers Training Corps at Washington, D. C. await--ing orders to go to France, and as the writer remembers his skill with the rifle when a boy, the Germans had better watch out.

My youngest sister Elizabeth Bee, was born in 1834, and came west with her parents, a little girl to a new coun--try, but went back east to school, and grew up a vivacious black eyed, red cheeked, and charming young woman.

She was married to Charles C. Holmes of Brandon, Vt. who was in business in this city a number of years, and who lost his life by drowning in New York harbor.

Mrs. Holmes lost her life before her time by arsenic poisoning served in a dinner, and caused by the tardiness of a grocer in delivering a bill of goods. She was the only one of the party at that dinner who died at that time. Others suffered from the effects of the poison, however, and died later. Mrs. Holmes was twenty-nine years of age at the time of her death. She is buried in the Evergreen Cem--etery. She left one child, Lillie, who grew to be a charm--ing young lady, but who also suffered from the effects of that poisoned dinner, died young, at the age of eighteen, and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, New York City.

Mrs. Frances Scibird of 912 West Mulberry Street, Bloomington, Ill. who was a member of our family at the time, was also affected by the poison but recovered.

My youngest brother, Henry C. Wilson, claimed he was born in 1838, and although I remember the event, I am not sure about the date.

He came west with the family a small boy, and in--vented a way of his own to mount a horse out on the open prairie. He would give the horse a handful of salt, then when the horse put its head down to eat the salt he would get astride its neck and as the horse raised its head, he would slide onto its back.

He was educated in the east, but came west again, and was an early promoter and owner of the McLean County Abstract Companies business. Later he was in the loan and commission business with George W. Tomms on Main St. Bloomington, Ill. They afterwards moved their office to St. Louis, Mo. and dealt in land around Pratt, Kans.

Later, with his family, he made trip to the British Isles and spent three years in England. Returning they settled in Boston, Mass.

From him I received some of these items, as he visited the old Wilson home at Bedlington and examined the records of the church our family attended and where their children were christened, and also the cemetery where our early dead were buried.

He died and was buried at Boston, Mass. Dec. 31, 1916, leaving his widow and one daughter, Lida Wilson Bathon, who with her husband, resides at 2700 Wisconsin Ave. Washington, D. C. Mr. Bathon is in the employe of the U. S. Government.

I believe that in the beginning of my history, I forgot to mention the fact that the ship on which my grandfather Wilson and his family came to America, was an old sailing vessel called the "Mary of Glasgow" and that on its next voyage it was lost at sea.

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Mrs. Edward Wilson.

Edward Wilson.

As for myself what shall I say? I was born near the town of Fenner, in Madison County, New York, on the 6th day of August, 1827, which was my Mothers twenty-eighth birthday.

Unlike my brother Walter, I did not like my books, so my education was limited to the common district school and one or two terms at Cazenovia Seminary.

Cazenovia is one of prettiest towns in the state. It is located on the east side of the lake of the same name which has no visible inlet, but a stream flowing from it furnished power for several factories and flour mills, etc.

Our home was four miles from but in full sight of Cazenovia. We lived there until I was seventeen years old, when my Father sold his farm and came west.

We came by way of the Erie canal, on the steamboat Dewitt Clinton, to Chicago, where we landed on South Wa-ter Street, in June, 1844. Chicago at that time was a small affair, with no pavements and not even sidewalks.

We stopped at the Saginaw Hotel, corner of Canal and Lake streets.

In a couple of days my Father bought a team and we drove west on Lake Street four miles with only two houses on the route. We turned south through the timber to Joliet, where we spent the summer. Well do I remember that four of us youngsters were down at the same time with bilious attacks, terminating in fever and ague, which was no respecter of persons.

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We left Joliet by way of Ottawa, Starved Rock, and Princeton, in October, for Bloomington, our final destination. In the spring of 1845 we moved to a farm five miles southwest of Bloomington, which Father bought that fall at an administrators sale for $875. It contained 160 acres, with ten acres of timber and a good house and barn.

Our nearest neighbors were five miles away. They were W. C. Warlow and John Bozarth. Presley T. Brooks ten miles away, was the next.

Our house was a stopping place for all who wished to thaw out their ears or fingers in winter, or quench their thirst in summer, as they came to Bloomington from the southwest.

My parents remained on the farm until 1858, when they came to Bloomington and left me in the country, but I was always welcome whenever I went to their home.

I bought land and built my first house in the early sixties, and in June, 1864, myself and Louisa Perry McWhorter of near Danvers, Ill. were married in Peoria. She was a young widow I had met and liked in our school days. But she had married Stephen S. McWhorter, a young man from Virginia, who lived but little more than a year after their marriage, and died of Asiatic cholera away from home.

He died October 2, 1854, aged twenty-five years, six months and twenty days, and is buried in the Adams Cemetery, on the Ransom Farm, near Selma, in Lexington Twp. McLean Co. Ill. He left one son, Stephen A. McWhorter, now of New York City.

We made an agreement that our home should be his home whenever he wished it, and for over fifty-three years in which his Mother, Stephen and myself associated togeth--er, no words ever passed between us that were not pleasant or correct in good company. 1715719

Stephen A. McWhorter has three sons now living in Chicago, Ill.

Soon after our marriage we located on the farm I had bought and improved in Dale Township, where we lived and enjoyed the confidence of our townsmen nearly forty-three years, as I held three different township offices for twenty-one years of that time, and we also had reasonably good success financially.

Our family consisted of ourselves and four children. Our oldest, William L., was born in June, 1865, spent his youth at home, and was educated at the Illinois Wesleyan University, and at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He was strictly tem--perate, industrious and frugal almost to a fault, and yet he liked to see the outside world, and know what the other fellow was doing. He saw most of the places of note in this country, and also made a trip to the British Isles.

He made a trip to Chicago in the nineties, to attend the marriage of Hon. Frank H. Funk and Florence Risser, and while there was offered a position as manager of the Aetna Silk Store, on Lake Street, which he accepted and held about three years. He was then offered the position of cashier of the First National Bank of Waterville, Wash. which he accepted.

I visited him in 1892, and found him busy in that bank, and also occupied as secretary, treasurer, and one of a committee who were building a meeting house for the Baptists of Waterville.

He married May Wickizer of this city, Oct. 15, 1905, and went to live on our home farm in Dale Township, where they continued to reside until he lost his life by an accidental fall down an elevator shaft in this city. He died Jan. 20, 1917. His untimely death was a sad loss to his wife and young children, as well as to all the rest of our family.

His children are Stephen W. aged fourteen, Louise, aged twelve, Elizabeth B. aged nine, and Edith May, aged five.

Our second child and only daughter, Esther Mary, was born Jan. 26, 1867, an affectionate child, was educated at the Illinois Wesleyan University and at St. Thomas, Ontario. She was married on Thanksgiving day, 1892, to D. M. Davison of Minonk, Ill. by Rev. W. B. Riley, now of Minneapolis, Minn. Mr. Davison has two brothers living near Fort Myers, Florida, and one brother, Dexter H. Dav--ison of Bombay, India, from whom I received a message recently.

Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Davison have three children, viz. Edith P., Edward H. and D. M. Jr.

We had one boy, John P., born in 1870, a lovable child, who died of spinal meningitis Aug. 8, 1872, after a protracted illness.

Our fourth and last child, Walter Chester Wilson, was born on the farm, Aug. 16, 1874, and liked our home and his mothers table so well that he remained with us until Thanksgiving day, 1916, when he was married in Decatur, Ill. to Miss Jeddie Tracey of this city. They are now liv-ing on a farm near Covel, Ill. and have one child, a fine boy named Edward F., the fifth of that name.

What more need I say from my long lifes memory than this, that I cannot record one single instance of any charge of dishonor or disloyalty being preferred against any one of our Wilson clan?.

Arnold was a traitor
And Andre a spy, -
No Wilson was either.
I bid you Good-by.

Edward Wilson.

Bloomington, Illinois, January, 1918.

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